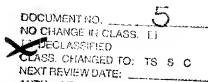


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SUBJECT:	237	IAS		Comments	093	O/ME	Openia til can

- 1. All apologies for being so late in responding to your request for a comment on letter to you of 23 October 1954.
- 2. All of us have been well samme of Jos's first point—too much Board time spent in meetings—not enough spent on reading and reflexion.
- 3. At present we are working on a two panel system-no more than four Board members see a paper all the way through the coordination process. This has added considerably to uncommitted Board time and is paying off well.
- 4. Regarding paragraph 2. I agree the Board might save Board time by making written comments to the draft. On the other hand Joe well known that unless the writer of the comment in able to explain and defend his suggestion crally, other Board members may disallow it. Thus it is possible, may probable, that Joe's suggestion would result in greater rather than less outlay of Board time. As applied to comments to be written by the IAC accordes, we have discouraged certain aspects of this and emouraged others. Wisely we have discouraged written comments which were not actual emended text on the ground that anything written down may by the mere fact of reduction and clearance have taken on the rigidness of an efficial position. Unnecessary fights and bitter ones over inconsequentials may thus generate. We have, however, continuously urged agency representatives to come to our meetings with amended text and enough cooles for everyone. We but about 350 to 400 in this respect.
- 5. Regarding paragraph 3. I agree that conclusions are the crux of RIE's and should be improved. But Joe's suggestion that "it might be ruled that conclusions alone are binding as agreed intelligence" is not sound. It seems to me highly likely that a reader displaced with a given conclusion could seriously challenge



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its validity if he could establish any doubt as to the degree of support this conclusion received in the corpus of the paper. It seems likely that if conclusions and text did not scrupulously conform the displeased reader could easily and persuasively challenge their validity by quick and demning reference to the text itself.

- 6. Regarding paragraph 4. I agree that our unrat fault is the compressive formulation which is ambiguous or meaningless or both. Some of these occur in moments of fatigue; others occur because they are simply unavoidable. Joe, as you, is well aware that IM agencies profer to avoid a footnote of dissent. The why is relatively unimportant; the fact is that upon occasions an agency simply cannot be driven to take a footnote without having all other agencies associate themselves with it. This leaves you, the DCI, further out on a limb than the Board likes to put yes—particularly if the footnote is so constructed as to make the sem who will not accept it seem slightly trucked. The Agencies have developed the formulation of such notes of dissent to a very fine art and very interesting tool of blacksail. Tour Board is much conserned but semethers helpless in the presence of this dilemma.
- 7. Regarding paragraph 5. On perhaps as rany as four different occasions in four years we have unde arrangements to keep the reading room open till 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Each time we have abandoned the service because virtually no one availed himself of it.
- 8. My replies above may seem to indicate that I think things in O/NS are perfect. I do own that they are good but not perfect. Rather it is that I do not happen to go all the way with all of Joe's comments.

SHEEDAR KENT Assistant Director Haticusl Estimates

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